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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,576	06/13/2001	Clifton A. Alferness	I 1998.5USC2	7153

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EXAMINER

SZMAL, BRIAN SCOTT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3736

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/880,576	Applicant(s) ALFERNES ET AL.	
	Examiner Brian Szmal	Art Unit 3736	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 32-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18 and 32-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on September 20, 2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,537,203, 6,564,094 and 6,567,699 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "S" has been used to designate both a septum of a diseased heart in Figures 2 and 2A and a suture point on the diseased heart in Figure 3A. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "S" has been used to designate both a septum of a healthy heart in Figures 1 and 1A and a suture point in Figure 4A. Corrected drawing

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sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 35 is objected to because of the following informalities: "said biomedical material" should read as —said biocompatible material— due to the disclosure of "a biocompatible material" in Claim 1. Appropriate correction is required:

5. Claims 36 and 38 are objected to because of the following informalities: "an electrical current" should read as —said electrical current— due to the disclosure of "an electrical current" in Claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 18 and 32-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lederman et al (6,224,540 B1) in view of Gordon et al (5,336,253).

Lederman et al disclose a passive girdle for constraining heart expansion and further disclose accessing the heart (the heart has to be accessed in order to place jacket 30 on the heart); selecting a device (30) sized to be placed on the diseased heart; placing the device (30) on the heart, the device (30) comprising compliant biocompatible material (33) configured to engage a surface of the heart to passively constrain circumferential expansion of the heart (See Column 5, lines 35-36); securing the device (30) on the heart (See Column 5, lines 52-55); the device (30) is secured to the heart using sutures (See Column 5, lines 52-55, attaching the device at 4-6 points along the A-V groove suggests the use of sutures because an adhesive would be incompatible on a beating heart); adjusting the device (30) to snugly conform to the external geometry of the heart (See Column 5, lines 55-57); the biocompatible material (33) is a substantially non-elastic material (See Column 5, lines 26-31, the plastic rings allow expansion of the heart to a specified size and then constrains the heart); and the device (30) is configured to engage a surface of the heart to constrain circumferential expansion of the heart beyond a predetermined maximum volume (See Column 5, lines 26-31, see explanation above).

Lederman et al however fail to disclose passing an electrical current to the heart with the current selected to apply and electrical therapy to the heart; passing the electrical current to the heart is accomplished using electrical elements; the electrical

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elements are pacer leads; an electrical current is passed from the heart; the electrical therapy is a defibrillating therapy; and the electrical therapy is a pacing therapy.

Gordon et al disclose a pacing and defibrillation lead for providing therapy to a heart and further disclose passing an electrical current to the heart with the current selected to apply and electrical therapy to the heart; passing the electrical current to the heart is accomplished using electrical elements (10); the electrical elements (10) are pacer leads; an electrical current is passed from the heart; the electrical therapy is a defibrillating therapy; and the electrical therapy is a pacing therapy. See Column 2, lines 40-48; Column 3, lines 61-68; and Column 6, lines 34-54.

Since both Lederman et al and Gordon et al both apply a therapy to a diseased heart, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Lederman et al to include the application of electrical therapy to the heart, as per the teachings of Gordon et al, since it is well known in the art to utilize pacing and/or defibrillation to treat an abnormally-beating heart.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18, 32 and 34-41 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Szmaj whose telephone number is (571) 272-4733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, with Fridays off.

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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